

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A payment system having a server apparatus, a first terminal apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ in a purchase application, a second terminal apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ in an installment payment organization, and a third terminal apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ in a settlement service organization, capable of transmitting and receiving information via a communication network~~[[,]]~~; wherein, the first terminal apparatus comprises:

an inputting device ~~for enabling the purchaser to~~ enable a purchaser to input desirable one of a plurality of payment plan information items each ~~indicating~~ comprising a combination of both (i) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser pays a price of a product, which the purchaser is to buy, in installments through the installment payment organization, and (ii) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser settles a price of a service continually provided to the purchaser through the product by means of a credit card issued by the settlement service organization and owned by the purchaser, as well as ~~for enabling the purchaser to~~ enable the purchaser to input a certain kind of personal information about the purchaser and a credit card information indicating at least a card number of the credit card~~;~~ and

the server apparatus comprises:

a processing device ~~for extracting~~ to extract both (i) information relating to an item or items predetermined ~~[[for]]~~ in an installment payment application including at least a part of the

personal information and the payment plan information and (ii) information relating to an item or items predetermined ~~[[for]]~~ in a settlement service application including at least a part of the personal information, the payment plan information and the credit card information, separately from among the information inputted via said inputting device;

~~a communication device for transmitting~~ a first transmitting device to transmit the information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the installment payment application extracted by said processing device to~~[[']]~~ the second terminal apparatus via the communication network~~[[,]]~~;

a second transmitting device to transmit the information relating to the item or items predetermined ~~[[for]]~~ in the settlement service application extracted by said processing device to the third terminal apparatus via the communication network~~[[,]]~~;

a first receiving device to receive installment payment examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of an installment payment transmitted via the communication network from the second terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the installment payment application~~[[,]]~~; ~~[[and]]~~

a second receiving device to receive settlement service examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of a settlement service transmitted via the communication network from the third terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the settlement service application; and

~~a confirming device for confirming~~ to confirm a payment plan indicated by the payment plan information inputted via said inputting device, on the basis of the installment payment

examination result information and the settlement service examination result information received by said ~~communication~~ second receiving device.

2. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein said inputting device is ~~for inputting~~ to input the payment plan information, the personal information and the credit card information without an overlapped entry to each other on a single application form.

3. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein the server apparatus registers the personal information, the payment plan information and the credit card information inputted via said inputting device into a database,

~~said processing device and said communication device are disposed in the server apparatus;~~

said processing device extracts the information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the installment payment application and the information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the settlement service application, separately from among the information registered in or to be registered into the database.

4. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein said processing device reforms the information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the installment payment application into a format adapted for the second terminal apparatus, and reforms the

information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the settlement service application into a format adapted for the third terminal apparatus.

5. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein the first terminal apparatus further comprises a confirmed plan outputting device ~~for outputting~~ to output the payment plan confirmed by said confirming device, in a predetermined format.

6. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein the server apparatus further comprises a payment plan information supplying device ~~for supplying~~ to supply the plurality of payment plan information items to the first terminal apparatus via the communication network.

7. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 6, wherein the first terminal apparatus further comprises a payment plan candidates outputting device ~~for outputting~~ to output, in a predetermined format, the plurality of payment plan information items supplied via the communication network, as payment plan candidates inputtable or selectable via said inputting device.

8. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 7, wherein said inputting device is ~~for enabling~~ to enable the purchaser to select one of the plurality of payment plan information items outputted by said payment plan candidates outputting device.

9. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 7, wherein the payment plan candidates outputting device ~~outputs~~ is to output the payment plan information items in a format indistinctive between the price of the product and the price of the service, as the predetermined format.

10. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 6, wherein said payment plan information supplying device supplies one or more payment plan information items applicable to the purchaser, according to a predetermined standard, on the basis of the personal information inputted via said inputting device.

11. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 6, wherein if, according to a predetermined standard, there is no payment plan information applicable to the purchaser among the payment plan information items already supplied by default, said payment plan information supplying device supplies another payment plan information, ~~if there is no payment plan information applicable to the purchaser among the payment plan information items already supplied by default,~~ according to a predetermined standard, on the basis of the personal information inputted via said inputting device[[,]].

12. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 6, wherein said inputting device ~~is for further inputting~~ enables the purchaser to input a purchaser's preference about the payment plan information in a predetermined format, and

said payment plan information supplying device supplies one or more payment plan information items in response to the purchaser's preference inputted via said inputting device.

13. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 6, wherein said payment plan information supplying device supplies the payment plan information items with a ranking reflecting at least one of a past performance of selection ~~[[for]]~~ in payment plans and a popularity poll for payment plans.

14. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein an amount of money to be paid during an installment payment period, within which the price is paid in installments, is appropriated for the price of the product and the price of the service, and an amount of money to be paid after the installment payment period is appropriated for the price of the service~~[[,]]~~.

15. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein the second terminal apparatus comprises an installment payment examining device ~~for examining~~ to examine the acceptance or refusal of the installment payment for the purchaser, on the basis of the transmitted information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the installment payment application, and the second terminal apparatus transmits the installment payment examination result information outputted by said installment payment examining device via the communication network to the server apparatus.

16. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein the third terminal apparatus comprises a settlement service examining device for examining the acceptance or refusal of the settlement service for the purchaser, on the basis of the transmitted information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the settlement service application, and the third terminal apparatus transmits the settlement service examination result information outputted by said settlement service examining device via the communication network to the server apparatus.

17. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein the payment plans ~~includes~~ include a payment plan according to which a certain part of the price of the product is paid in a lump as a first installment~~[[,]]~~.

18. (currently amended): The payment system according to claim 1, wherein said confirming device is disposed in the server apparatus, and, if the payment plan is confirmed, the confirming device informs a fact that the payment plan is confirmed to the first terminal apparatus via the communication network, ~~and also issues a shipping order of the product, if the payment plan is confirmed.~~

19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended): A payment method performed in a payment system having a server apparatus, a first terminal apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ in a purchase application, a second terminal

apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ in an installment payment organization, and a third terminal apparatus ~~[[for]]~~ in a settlement service organization, capable of transmitting and receiving information via a communications network, said method comprising:

(A) ~~—said method comprising, in the first terminal apparatus,~~

~~an inputting process~~ a step performed by the first terminal apparatus of enabling ~~[[the]]~~ a purchaser to input desirable one of a plurality of payment plan information items each ~~indicating~~ comprising a combination of both (i) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser pays a price of a product, which the purchaser is to buy, in installments through the installment payment organization, and (ii) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser settles a price of a service continually provided to the purchaser through the product by means of a credit card issued by the settlement service organization and owned by the purchaser, ~~as well as of and~~ further enabling the purchaser to input a certain kind of personal information about the purchaser and a credit card information indicating at least a card number of the credit card~~[[,]]~~;

(B) ~~—said method further comprising, in the server apparatus:~~

~~an extracting process~~ a step performed by the server apparatus of extracting both (i) information relating to an item or items predetermined ~~[[for]]~~ in an installment payment application including at least a part of the personal information and the payment plan information and (ii) information relating to an item or items predetermined ~~[[for]]~~ in a settlement service application including at least a part of the personal information, the payment plan information and the credit card information, separately from among the information inputted ~~by said~~ inputting process;

~~a communication process~~ a step performed by the server apparatus of transmitting the information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the installment payment application extracted ~~by said extracting process~~ to the second terminal apparatus via the communication network~~[[,]]~~;

a step performed by the server apparatus of transmitting the information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the settlement service application extracted ~~by said extracting process~~ to the third terminal apparatus via the communication network~~[[,]]~~;

a step performed by the server apparatus of receiving installment payment examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of an installment payment transmitted via the communication network from the second terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the installment payment application, and receiving settlement service examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of a settlement service transmitted via the communication network from the third terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items ~~[[for]]~~ in the settlement service application; and

a step performed by the server apparatus ~~confirming process~~ of confirming a payment plan indicated by the payment plan information inputted by said inputting process, on the basis of the installment payment examination result information and the settlement service examination result information received ~~by said communication process~~ are performed.

21. (withdrawn) A server apparatus capable of transmitting and receiving information via a communication network among (I) a first terminal apparatus for a purchase application having an inputting device for prompting to input desirable one of a plurality of payment plan

informations each indicating a combination of (i) a payment plan portion according to which a purchaser pays a purchase price of a product, which the purchaser is to buy, in installments through the installment payment organization, and (ii) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser settles a price of a service continually provided to the purchaser through the product by means of a credit card issued by a settlement service organization and owned by the purchaser, as well as of prompting to input a certain kind of personal information about the purchaser and a credit card information indicating at least a card number of the credit card, (II) a second terminal apparatus for an installment payment organization, and (III) a third terminal apparatus for the settlement service organization, the server apparatus comprising:

a processing device for extracting (i) information relating to an item or items predetermined for an installment payment application including at least a part of the personal information and the payment plan information and (ii) information relating to an item or items predetermined for a settlement service application including at least a part of the personal information, the payment plan information and the credit card information separately from among the information inputted via said inputting device;

a communication device for transmitting the extracted information relating to the item or items for the installment payment application to the second terminal apparatus via the communication network, transmitting the extracted information relating to the item or items for the settlement service application device to the third terminal apparatus via the communication network, receiving installment payment examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of an installment payment transmitted via the communication network from the second terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items for the

installment payment application, and receiving settlement service examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of a settlement service transmitted via the communication network from the third terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items for the settlement service application; and

a confirming device for confirming a payment plan indicated by the payment plan information inputted via the inputting device, on the basis of the installment payment examination result information and the settlement service examination result information received by said communication device.

22. (withdrawn) A payment processing method in a server apparatus capable of transmitting and receiving information via a communication network among (I) a first terminal apparatus for a purchase application having an inputting device for prompting to input desirable one of a plurality of payment plan informations each indicating a combination of (i) a payment plan according to which a purchaser pays a purchase price of a product, which the purchaser is to buy, in installments through the installment payment organization, and (ii) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser settles a price of a service continually provided to the purchaser through the product by means of a credit card issued by a settlement service organization and owned by the purchaser, as well as of prompting to input a certain kind of personal information about the purchaser and a credit card information indicating at least a card number of the credit card, (II) a second terminal apparatus for an installment payment organization, and (III) a third terminal apparatus for the settlement service organization, the payment processing method comprising:

an extracting process of extracting (i) information relating to an item or items predetermined for an installment payment application including at least a part of the personal information and the payment plan information and (ii) information relating to an item or items predetermined for a settlement service application including at least a part of the personal information, the payment plan information and the credit card information separately from among the information inputted by said inputting process;

a communication process of transmitting the extracted information relating to the item or items for the installment payment application to the second terminal apparatus via the communication network, transmitting the extracted information relating to the item or items for the settlement service application device to the third terminal apparatus via the communication network, receiving installment payment examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of an installment payment transmitted via the communication network from the second terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items for the installment payment application, and receiving settlement service examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of a settlement service transmitted via the communication network from the third terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items for the settlement service application; and

a confirming process of confirming a payment plan indicated by the payment plan information inputted via the inputting device, on the basis of the installment payment examination result information and the settlement service examination result information received by said communication device.

23. (withdrawn) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer to make the computer function as at least one of a server apparatus capable of transmitting and receiving information via a communication network, a first terminal apparatus for a purchase application, a second terminal apparatus for an installment payment organization, and a third terminal apparatus for a settlement service organization, these components being provided for a payment system, wherein,

the first terminal apparatus comprises:

an inputting device for prompting to input desirable one of a plurality of payment plan informations each indicating a combination of (i) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser pays a price of a product, which the purchaser is to buy, in installments through the installment payment organisation, and (ii) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser settles a price of a service continually provided to the purchaser through the product by means of a credit card issued by the settlement service organisation and owned by the purchaser, as well as for prompting to input a certain kind of personal information about the purchaser and a credit card information indicating at least a card number of the credit card,

at least one of the server apparatus and the first terminal apparatus comprises:

a processing device for extracting (i) information relating to an item or items predetermined for an installment payment application including at least a part of the personal information and the payment plan information and (ii) information relating to an item or items predetermined for a settlement service application including at least a part of the personal

information, the payment plan information and the credit card information, separately from among the information inputted via said inputting device;

a communication device for transmitting the information relating to the item or items for the installment payment application extracted by said processing device to the second terminal apparatus via the communication network, transmitting the information relating to the item or items predetermined for the settlement service application extracted by said processing device to the third terminal apparatus via the communication network, receiving installment payment examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of an installment payment transmitted via the communication network from the second terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items for the installment payment application, and receiving settlement service examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of a settlement service transmitted via the communication network from the third terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items for the settlement service application; and

a confirming device for confirming a payment plan indicated by the payment plan information inputted via said inputting device, on the basis of the installment payment examination result information and the settlement service examination result information received by said communication device.

24. (withdrawn) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer to make the computer function as a server apparatus capable of transmitting and receiving information via a

communication network among (I) a first terminal apparatus for a purchase application having an inputting device for prompting to input desirable one of a plurality of payment plan informations each indicating a combination of (i) a payment plan portion according to which a purchaser pays a purchase price of a product, which the purchaser is to buy, in installments through the installment payment organization, and (ii) a payment plan portion according to which the purchaser settles a price of a service continually provided to the purchaser through the product by means of a credit card issued by a settlement service organization and owned by the purchaser, as well as of prompting to input a certain kind of personal information about the purchaser and a credit card information indicating at least a card number of the credit card, (II) a second terminal apparatus for an installment payment organization, and (III) a third terminal apparatus for the settlement service organization, the server apparatus comprising:

a processing device for extracting (i) information relating to an item or items predetermined for an installment payment application including at least a part of the personal information and the payment plan information and (ii) information relating to an item or items predetermined for a settlement service application including at least a part of the personal information, the payment plan information and the credit card information separately from among the information inputted via said inputting device;

a communication device for transmitting the extracted information relating to the item or items for the installment payment application to the second terminal apparatus via the communication network, transmitting the extracted information relating to the item or items for the settlement service application device to the third terminal apparatus via the communication network, receiving installment payment examination result information indicating an acceptance

or refusal of an installment payment transmitted via the communication network from the second terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items for the installment payment application, and receiving settlement service examination result information indicating an acceptance or refusal of a settlement service transmitted via the communication network from the third terminal apparatus in response to the transmitted information relating to the item or items for the settlement service application; and

a confirming device for confirming a payment plan indicated by the payment plan information inputted via the inputting device, on the basis of the installment payment examination result information and the settlement service examination result information received by said communication device.